

of the aisle to give the gift of tax fairness by supporting our efforts to eliminate the marriage penalty tax.

SCHOOL CHOICE

(Mr. GUTKNECHT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, we have been having a debate here on the floor of the Congress about school choice and particularly here in the Washington district.

Jonathan Rauch writes on this issue in the last November 10 edition of the *New Republic*. He says he has always found it odd that the liberals have handed the issue to the Republicans rather than grabbing it for themselves. He writes, "It's hard to get excited about improving rich suburban schools. However, for poor children, trapped, the case is moral rather than merely educational. These kids attend schools which cannot protect them, much less teach them. To require poor people to go to dangerous, dysfunctional schools that better-off people fled and would never tolerate for their own children, all the while intoning pieties about 'saving' public education, is worse than unsound public policy. It is repugnant public policy."

Mr. Speaker, we agree.

RECOGNIZING PUBLIC SERVICE BY WASHINGTON STATE BROADCASTERS

(Mr. NETHERCUTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the outstanding public service work being done by broadcasters across America and especially in my district in eastern Washington.

The Washington State Association of Broadcasters recently completed a survey of its membership and the results were extremely encouraging about the level and types of public service rendered on a daily basis by radio and TV stations in my State.

I want to particularly praise the fine work done by stations in my district, the fifth of Washington. KXLY-TV created a school attendance award that helped decrease truancy in Spokane middle schools. KHQ-TV spent hundreds of thousands of dollars for the "Success by Six" program that is helping children throughout Spokane middle schools learn to read by the time they are 6 years old. KREM-TV recently raised more than \$166,000 for programs benefiting women and children, such as the YWCA Transitional School for Homeless Children. And KAYU-TV is teaching kids lessons about fire safety with PSAs throughout their children's programming.

There are many more examples of this kind of public service provided on

a daily basis by local broadcasters in Washington State and across the Nation. We should thank these outstanding broadcasters who truly share the spirit of outstanding public service.

REFUSAL TO GRANT IMMUNITY TO FOUR KEY WITNESSES

(Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, what can Congress do to break a stone wall? Many of the key witnesses in congressional investigations have either fled the country or taken the fifth amendment. Others have hidden behind phony claims of executive privilege.

And if that is not enough, now we have Democrats on the House Government Reform and Oversight Committee who refuse to grant immunity to four key witnesses; even their own Justice Department consents to the granting of immunity to those four key witnesses.

What is Congress to do? Well, Congress can go to the courts and, thus, delay investigations for many more months, while listening to the White House and other defenders of this sleaze and obstruction to cry with indignation that the investigation is taking too long.

Mr. Speaker, why is this story not being told? Why cannot everyone, Democrats and Republicans alike, agree that no one is above the law and that the American people have a right to truthful answers?

Mr. Speaker, no amount of stonewalling should stand between the truth and the American people any longer.

CLARIFICATION TO APPOINTMENT OF ADDITIONAL CONFEREES ON H.R. 2400, BUILDING EFFICIENT SURFACE TRANSPORTATION AND EQUITY ACT OF 1998

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). Without objection, the Chair announces that the Speaker's appointment of additional conferees today from the Committee on Ways and Means were solely for consideration of title XI of the House bill and title VI of the Senate amendments and modifications committed to conference on the bill (H.R. 2400) to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will notify the Senate of the change in conferees.

COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE COMPETITION AND PRIVATIZATION ACT OF 1998

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call

up House Resolution 419, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 419

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 1(b) of rule XXIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1872) to amend the Communications Satellite Act of 1962 to promote competition and privatization in satellite communications, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Commerce. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Commerce now printed in the bill. The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. No amendment to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order unless printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 6 of rule XXIII. Printed amendments shall be considered as read. The chairman of the Committee of the Whole may: (1) postpone until a time during further consideration in the Committee of the Whole a request for a recorded vote on any amendment; and (2) reduce to five minutes the minimum time for electronic voting on any postponed question that follows another electronic vote without intervening business, provided that the minimum time for electronic voting on the first in any series of questions shall be 15 minutes. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) is recognized for 1 hour.

(Mr. DREIER asked for and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks and to include extraneous material.)

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to my very good friend, the gentleman from South Boston, MA (Mr. MOAKLEY), pending which, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this modified open rule provides for consideration of H.R. 1817, the Communications Satellite Competition and Privatization Act of 1998. The rule provides for 1 hour of general debate equally divided between and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Commerce.

The rule makes in order as an original bill for the purpose of amendment